ASJA CRISIS COVERAGE AWARDS: COVID-19 EDITION

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is the contest only open to freelancers?
A. No! All writers are invited to enter.

Q. How do I submit?

Q. If I want to pay for more than one entry but submit the same article in multiple categories, can I do that?
A. No, you can only submit an article in one category.

Q. I’m not sure what category I should submit under, because my story seems right for more than one. Will the judges move my submission to another category if I get it wrong?
A. The judges will not move submissions, so use your best judgment in selecting the appropriate category.

Q. I’m not sure if any of the categories fit the topic of my article, will you be developing additional categories?
A. We are not creating more categories for the COVID-19 edition. Please choose the closest fit. (We are open to suggestions for future Crisis Awards, however. Send them to Crisis Awards chair Janine Latus at jslatus@gmail.com.)

Q. I wrote an article but didn’t get a byline. Can I submit anyway?
A. Yes, but we will need proof that you wrote the article.

Q. May I enter if my piece is published on my personal blog?
A. As long as it is accessible to the public.

Q. May I submit a series of closely related stories as one entry?
A. Yes, you can send a series of up to three articles as long as they total no more than 6,000 words. (Our judges only have so much time!)

Q. Does my story have to have been published in the United States?
A. This is a global competition and anything published in English anywhere is eligible.
Q. What are the judging criteria?
A. Teams of judges evaluate each piece on the quality of the writing and reporting, and whether it unveils something fresh or in a new way.

Q. How much does it cost to enter?
A. Entry fee for ASJA Members: $15, Nonmembers $25, Members of other nonprofit organizations $20. Payments are made in advance of submission.

Q. Where is the money from entry fees going?
A. Entry fees will be split evenly between prize money, WEAF, and ASJA administrative costs.

Q. What are the data parameters for entries?
A. Articles must have been published in English anywhere in the world between Jan. 1, 2020, and June 30, 2020.

Q. What are the categories?
- **Business & Economy** – including all financial aspects, the effect on contract workers, recession, furloughs, open-up movements, remote work, supply chain disruptions, unemployment and travel and tourism.
- **Education** – including homeschooling, school-related online classes and virtual internships.
- **Healthcare** – including the broad spectrum of COVID-19’s impact on medical personnel, infection spread and testing, hospital overload, the reduction of elective procedures and long-term implication of delayed treatments for issues unrelated to COVID-19.
- **Mental Health** – including explorations of resilience, grief, isolation, stress, pandemic fatigue, anxiety, depression and suicide.
- **Personal Essays** – first-person accounts of any aspect of the pandemic.
- **Politics & Government** – including federal, state, local and international government responses, positions by political entities, effect on campaigns and elections, stimulus efforts and the disparity of COVID-19’s impact on different demographics.
- **Science** – including COVID-19 research, efforts toward vaccines and treatments, virus origin and evolution and future implications.
- **Social Adaptation** – including parenting and innovative ways of dealing with isolation (i.e. incorporating social distancing into celebrations, finding at-home hobbies, online versions of traditionally in-person activities).
- **Technology** – including quarantine chats, Zoom popularity, remote work, TV shows from home (like Saturday Night Live), tracking technologies, vaccine/treatment technologies and 3D printing of protective equipment.

Q. How many winners will there be in each category?
A. Judges will select a winner, and in particularly close categories, an honorable mention.

Q. When will winners be announced?
A. We will begin announcing winners July 26, 2020.

Q. Are podcasts or broadcast excerpts admissible?
A. Unfortunately, no. Only print journalism counts.

Q. I have a book coming out regarding covid-19. Can I enter it into the contest?
A. Unfortunately we do not have judges who can read books in the amount of time we’re allotting for judging. ASJA’s Annual Writing Awards will have a book category for you to enter. Please watch for details coming later in the year.

Q. Whether I win or not, if I submit an article for this awards program, can I also submit the same article for ASJA’s annual awards program next year?
A. Yes, you can submit the same article for both programs. They are being judged separately.